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Brief Chronicle of the last Month.

ABERDEEN.—The Aberdeen Choral Society gave a performance of the *Messiah*, in the Music Hall, on Friday evening, the 28th of December, when an audience of fully two thousand persons, many of whom had come from a great distance, were assembled. The solo singers, who were engaged from London expressly for this occasion, were Miss Augusta Thomson, Miss Clara Mackenzie, Mr. George Cooper, and Mr. Weiss. The chorus numbered two hundred and forty voices, and there were forty instrumentalists. Mr. Howard lead the band; Mr. Baker presided at the organ; and the whole was conducted by Mr. Latter. It is now above twenty years since the *Messiah* was given in Aberdeen, and the present performance was consequently expected with much interest. Of the solo singers it is needless to speak, since their fame is already established in London. Miss Augusta Thomson is a soprano of much promise; the upper notes of her voice are clear and ringing; her singing is very effective; and among the numerous soprano singers of the day she will at all times make a respectable appearance. Miss Clara Mackenzie appears by the notices in the Aberdeen papers to have won golden opinions from all. Good contraltos are not to be met with every day, and Miss Mackenzie has a voice of depth and richness, admirably adapted for sacred music. Her style is quiet, unaffected, and highly artistic, and she seems to have been prized at Aberdeen as she deserves. Mr. Cooper and Mr. Weiss were both applauded considerably, the latter was previously well known in Aberdeen, and had secured, as he always does, a vast number of admirers. The chorus, though unsteady in many pieces of the oratorio, performed their parts upon the whole satisfactorily. The undertaking was considered decidedly successful.

ALBION HALL, LONDON WALL.—A concert was given here on Thursday, January 10th, consisting of glees, songs, instrumental solos, &c. The singers were Miss Annie Cox, Miss Shelford, Mr. Sydenham, Mr. Leader, and others; the instrumental solos, Miss Potter, pianoforte, Mr. Hawks, jun., violin, and Mr. Hewitt, flute. Mr. G. H. Simson, organist of St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, was the accompanist. The concert passed off very creditably, and appeared to give great satisfaction to a numerous audience.

ARMITAGE BRIDGE (near Huddersfield).—Mr. Beaumont, organist of St. Paul's Church, gave a miscellaneous concert on Tuesday evening, January 8th, in the National School. Mrs. Sunderland, Miss Moseley, Mr. Whitehead and Mr. Garner, vocalists, and Mr. Iles violinist, were present. Mr. Beaumont presided at the pianoforte. The concert was a successful one, and passed off well.

BEAUMONT INSTITUTION, MILE-END.—A concert was given at this Institution on the 12th ult., in aid of the Band Fund of the 5th Essex Rifles. An admirable programme sustained by Madame Sainton Dolby, Miss Messent, Messrs. A. Matthison, W. Cummings, and L. Thomas, vocalists; and Messrs. A. Carder, piano; G. H. Betjemann, violin; Ellis, cornet; and Maycock, clarionet; together with the presence of a large number of the officers and privates in full uniform, attracted a large and highly respectable audience. Both the vocal and instrumental performances were worthy of the reputation of the artistes—the concerted music being deserving of special commendation. The whole was ably conducted by Mr. A. Carder, the organist of the Institution.

BIRMINGHAM.—The Cecilian Society gave their fifth annual concert on December 27th, in the large room of J. Hardman, Esq., Newhall Hill. The first part consisted of Pergolesi's Hymn "Adeste fideles," followed by Mozart's Mass in B flat, No. VII., which was well rendered; the second and third parts were composed of songs, duets, and quartets from Mendelssohn and others. Mr. J. Jones played the harmonium; Messrs. Jones and Wyer, the

pianoforte; and Mr. H. Gould was chorus master and conductor.

BISHOPSWORTH.—The annual concert for the benefit of the Bishopsworth Choir, was given in the National School Room, on Tuesday evening, January 8th, and was attended by an overflowing audience. The choruses were most creditably sustained by the choir, assisted by the young ladies of the village, numbering altogether forty voices. Some amateur friends, who kindly lent their aid as solo singers, added much to the effectiveness of the evening's entertainment.

Bow.—On Tuesday evening, January 15th, a lecture was delivered in Salem Chapel, Bow road, on "Handel," by Mr. Frederick Bridge, assisted by a choir of fifty voices, who sang several of the illustrious composer's choruses with great precision, under the direction of the Lecturer. Mr. John Lloyd presided at the organ.

BOXFORD, SUFFOLK.—The members and friends of this Choir held their annual soiree on Friday evening, January 18th, at the Assembly Rooms. The selection of glees, madrigals, songs, &c., was good, and the performance of them very creditable. Mr. John Ardley, the organist, conducted, and accompanied on the pianoforte.

BRISTOL.—A popular Evening Concert was given at the Athenæum, on the 20th of December, by Mr. Hatton, the principal performers being Miss Agnes Woodville, and Master Drew Dean, the juvenile flautist. The other performers were Messrs. Yates, Gay, and Collins, of the Cathedral Choir. The accompaniments were played by Mr. J. H. Macfarlane, of Bath. —**THE Bristol and Clifton Harmonic Society** gave their Christmas performance of Handel's *Messiah*, on the 26th of December, in the Victoria Rooms, Clifton, to a crowded audience. The principal vocalists engaged were Miss J. Wells, Miss M. Wells, Mr. Montem Smith, and Mr. Lambert. The choruses were given with precision and effect, and the band was both numerous and efficient. Mr. Philip Smith conducted with his usual ability.

BROSELEY.—Mrs. Charles Weale gave a concert in the Town Hall, on the 27th of December, at which she performed several pieces on the pianoforte. The vocalists were Mrs. Hay and Miss Humphries. There was also an efficient band, led by Mr. Charles Roden, and conducted by Mr. Bishop Boucher.

BURY.—On Thursday, the 17th ult., a handsome gold watch and chain, and a purse of sovereigns, were presented to Mr. Edward J. Spark, on his retiring from the office of choir-master at the Parish Church, which he had held for nine years. The rector of Bury presided on the occasion, and made the presentation on behalf of the clergy, choir, and congregation of the Parish Church.

CANTERBURY.—On the 7th of January, a concert took place at the George Assembly Rooms, under the immediate patronage of the Third Cinque Ports Rifles. The vocalists were Miss Jarrett, and Messrs. Plant, Gough, and Newsome, of the Cathedral Choir. —**THE Glee and Madrigal Society** had their concert on the 15th ult., at which the gentlemen of the bar, then on circuit, were present. In the course of the evening their health was proposed. The music elicited much praise. The principal singers were Messrs. Plant, Gough, and Newsome, with Mr. Irons as accompanist.

CAPE TOWN.—The Cape Town Choral Society continues to show an improvement, both in numbers and in musical performances. The Society has now thirty-five effective, and eighteen honorary members. They have lately given a concert, which proved very attractive, and was well attended by the lovers of music in Cape Town.

CHATHAM.—On the 8th ult., a vocal and instrumental concert was given by Mr. J. H. Horton, at the Lecture Hall. The principal vocalists were Mrs. Sutton, and Messrs. Horton, Cooper, Taylor, and Rhodes. Mr. A. J. Sutton presided at the pianoforte.

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BRIEF CHRONICLE—continued from page 414.

CHESTERFIELD.—On the 24th of December, the Choral Society of this town performed Handel's oratorio, the *Messiah*. The principal vocalists were Madame Poyzer, of Birmingham; Mr. Wood, of the Leeds Concert, and Messrs. H. Slack, Hague, and Eyre; leader, Mr. Jacques; harmonium, Mr. Trimmell; conductor, Mr. George. The band and chorus numbered sixty performers. The music was well performed, and great credit is due to the conductor for the marked improvement of the Society.

COLERNE (Wilts).—Mr. J. H. Macfarlane, assisted by members of the Choral Society, gave a successful concert here on the 11th of January.

EBBW VALE.—Two vocal and instrumental concerts were given in the large room of the Literary Institution, on the 8th and 9th ult., by lady and gentlemen amateurs of Ebbw Vale, in order to raise funds to purchase a pianoforte for the Institution. The room was tastefully decorated. The vocalists, who numbered between thirty and forty, had been very efficiently trained by Mr. Dayson, choir-master; and the instrumentalists by Mr. James Brown.

ELMORE.—On the 31st of December, the second concert was given by the Elmore Parish Choir, in the Hardwich School-room, when there was a numerous attendance. The principal vocalists were, Misses Guilding, Mundy, and Astman, and Messrs. Hargreave, Walker, and Houldy. Mr. Hargreave conducted, and Mr. Walker and Miss Land presided at the pianoforte.

HACKNEY-ROAD.—A concert was given on the 8th ult., at the Cowper-street School Rooms, Hackney-road, by the pupils of Mr. Thompson, who performed several pieces with much credit to themselves.

HASTINGS.—A concert was given at the Music Hall, on the 23rd ult., under distinguished patronage, in aid of the funds of the Artillery Band (4th Cinque Ports). The vocalists were Messrs. Plant, Newsome, and Gough (from Canterbury Cathedral), and Mr. Skinner. Mr. C. Lyon was the leader; accompanist, Mr. Faine; and conductor, Mr. Hermitage. The attendance was very large, more than six hundred persons being present, embracing the principal inhabitants of Hastings, St. Leonard's, and the neighbourhood. The vocal and instrumental selections were admirably performed, and received great applause.

HAWKSTONE HALL, WATERLOO-ROAD.—The South London Harmonic Society gave their quarterly concert on Monday evening, December 17th, when Handel's *Dettingen Te Deum*, and a selection from the *Messiah*, was performed. The whole of the programme was well received. This Society is in a flourishing condition, numbering fifty performers, including the band, which is very efficient.

HAZLE.—The Members of the Choral Society of this place gave a most successful concert in the School Room, Foundry Hill, on Thursday evening, December 20th, to a large audience. The music was conducted by Mr. John H. Nunn, Professor of Music, Penzance.

HEREFORD.—On Christmas Day the Choristers of Hereford Cathedral presented a very handsome Coromandel Envelope-case, Inkstand and Blotter, to Mr. Townshend Smith, the Organist of Hereford Cathedral, as a token of their regard and esteem.—On the 30th of December, a new Mass was performed in the Catholic Chapel, Broad-street, the composition of Mr. Bather, the blind organist of the chapel.

HULLAH TESTIMONIAL.—It is gratifying to see that a very large and influential committee has been formed, comprising many noblemen and gentlemen of the highest standing, for the purpose of collecting subscriptions in aid of a testimonial to Mr. Hullah, and to enable him to recover from the difficulties brought upon him by the fire at St. Martin's Hall. Mr. Hullah has faithfully devoted all his energies for many years to an extensive public musical education, and his labours in so good a cause are deserving of a liberal recompense.

HULL.—Concert by the Blind.—Miss Maria Wilson gave her annual benefit concert on Monday evening, the 14th of January, in the Music Hall, assisted by Messrs. Plowman, Hird, Hudson, and Holmes, from York. Mr. W. Turner, the blind organist of the Parish Church, Birlington, presided at the pianoforte. The concert was under the patronage of the Mayor and Sheriff, and was exceedingly well attended.

LEEDS.—On the 22nd of December, the *Messiah* was performed by the Leeds Town Hall Society, with a band and chorus selected from the best instrumentalists and choralists of the West-Riding, numbering 200 performers. The principal singers were Mrs. Sunderland, Miss Whitham, Miss Crosland, Mr. Inkersall, and Mr. Weiss. Leader, Mr. G. Haddock; organ, Mr. Spark; conductor, Mr. Jackson.—On the 26th ult., another concert was given by the Leeds Town Hall Concert Society, when *Judas Maccabæus* was the oratorio performed. The principal vocalists were Miss Helena Walker, a clever and a rising soprano, Miss Carrodus, Mr. Wilson, and Mr. Brandon. The chorus consisted of 100 voices. Organ, Mr. Spark; conductor, Mr. Henry Smart.—On the 8th, 15th, and 22nd of January, Mr. Spark gave performances on the grand organ in the Town Hall, Leeds, which were well attended. The programmes upon these occasions were well selected, and the music remarkably well performed.

LEICESTER.—On Christmas Eve, as one of the series of Concerts for the People, the *Messiah* was performed by the New Philharmonic Society, for the benefit of Miss Deacon, a highly esteemed professor. The performance was conducted by Mr. H. Nicholson, and the principals were Miss H. Walker, Miss Carrodus, and Miss L. Deacon; Messrs. Oldershaw, Sansome and Briggs.

LOWICK, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.—On Wednesday evening, December 26th, a Concert of Sacred Music took place in the Church School Room. The performers were thirty in number, members of the Slipton Singing Class.

MONTREAL, CANADA.—The Montreal Oratorio Society was organized here in September, 1859, and at present is on a very firm and effective basis. It is composed exclusively of native amateur talent, and numbers about one hundred and twenty-five practical and sixty-five honorary members, with a small but very effective orchestra. It has given seven public performances during the last winter to the largest audiences ever assembled in that city. The *Creation*, *Mozart's 12th Mass*, Spring and Summer of the *Seasons*, and the first and second parts of the *Messiah*, have been brought out in a most creditable and effective manner. The programme for the next concert consists of selections from the *Creation* and *Messiah*; Professor Fowler as conductor of the Society, and F. H. Torrington, leader of the orchestra.

NORBITON, KINGSTON-ON-THAMES.—A concert was given in the Girls' School Room of this district, on Friday, January 4th, by the members of the Norbiton Singing Class, as a *finale* to their annual bazaar. The programme consisted of trios, part-songs, and anthems, which were sung with great effect. The Rev. R. Holberton, the Incumbent of Norbiton, presided, and Mr. C. J. Hayes conducted.

OLD KENT-ROAD.—A concert was given in the Clifton Congregational Church, Asylum-road, on Tuesday, the 18th ult., under the direction of Mr. H. W. Osborn, in aid of the Organ Fund. Mr. Whitham presided at the organ, which place he was well qualified to fill. The choruses, which were well sung, were selected chiefly from the *Messiah* and *Judas Maccabæus*. The principal vocalists were Miss Parry and Miss Sarls; Mr. Beckett, Mr. Herring, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Osborn.

PONTARDAWE.—A concert was given by the Church Choir of this place, in the Town Hall, on the 4th of January, in aid of an Educational Institution. The programme was an attractive one, containing selections from the principal composers of sacred and secular music, and

was performed with taste and judgment. Mr. Baker accompanied on the pianoforte.

PORTLAND.—The members of the Choral Society held a social Tea Meeting at the Parish School Room, Fortune's Well, on Tuesday the 11th ult., for the purpose of presenting a testimonial to their conductor, Mr. Charles Alcock, in the form of a handsome gold pen and pencil case. Mr. D. Ames was elected to preside. The chairman read an address from the Members to their Conductor, expressive of their good feeling towards him, and their appreciation of his services, also acknowledging the valuable assistance of Mrs. Alcock. Mr. Alcock, on receiving the testimonial, replied in an appropriate speech, heartily thanking them for their kindness, and stating his determination to continue his duties with renewed energy and pleasure.

ROCHDALE.—A miscellaneous concert took place at the Public Hall on the 24th ult., when the principal performers were Miss Helena Walker, Miss Beverley, and Messrs. Tetley and Delavanti. Solo pianist and conductor, Mr. Spark.

ROSS.—The annual concert of the Ross Choral Society took place on the 10th ult., at the National School-room. Two overtures were played by the band in connexion with the Mechanics' Institute; and various part-songs and choruses were sung by the society.

RUSHDEN, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.—On Thursday evening, the 27th ult., a concert took place in the New School Room. The performers were principally of Mr. Randall's Singing Class. The music was well received.

SAUL, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.—Two Concerts were given in the National School Room, on Wednesday the 26th, and Thursday the 27th of December, and were well attended. Some popular glees were rendered with taste and ability by the Fretherne Choir, assisted by amateurs. The principals were Mrs. Greenway, Miss Hale, Mr. Hargreave, and Mr. Stockwell. Mr. T. Dauncey accompanied on the pianoforte, and Master Fryer on the harmonium.

SALISBURY.—The annual concert, in aid of the funds of the Literary Institution, took place at the Assembly Rooms, on the 14th ult., when a selection of the best songs, glees, and catches were sung with much effect by the gentlemen of the Cathedral Choir, assisted by members of the Sarum Choral Society, and others. Mr. Calkin was the leader of the band; Mr. T. Young presided at the pianoforte; and Mr. Kenningham conducted.

SHIPLEY (near Derby).—On Wednesday evening, December 26th, a concert of sacred and secular music was given in the National School Room, by the Choirs of St. Mary's, Attenborough, and Christ Church, Cotmanhay; Mr. Crufts (Choir Master of the Notts. Church Choral Union) kindly acting as conductor on the occasion. The performance was highly creditable to the members of the choirs. The school children also gave proof of their efficient training in two pieces sung by them, under the direction of their master, Mr. H. G. Meek. The Rev. E. J. Straton Fowler, Incumbent of Cotmanhay, and Mr. G. Browne, Organist of Attenborough, presided at the pianoforte.

SOHAM.—The members of the Ely Rifle Corps Band, assisted by several vocalists from Ely Cathedral, recently gave a concert in the Town Hall, which was well attended upon the occasion. Mr. Skelding accompanied and conducted.

STAINES.—On the 6th ult., a concert was given here in the Hall of the Mechanics' Institute. The principal singers were Miss Eleonora Wilkinson, Miss Louise Jarrett, Mr. Dyson, and Mr. Lambert. Pianist, Mr. Custard, director, Mr. Dyson.

ST. STEPHEN'S, WESTMINSTER.—An evening concert took place on the 28th of December, in the large room of the above Schools, founded and endowed by Miss Burdett

Coutts. The programme was well selected, and, with few exceptions, performed in a highly satisfactory manner by a choir and band well directed by Mr. Crawley. The rendering of Locke's music to *Macbeth*, and two part-songs, reflected credit upon all concerned. The solos were sung with taste, and Mr. Andrews gave proof of ability as an accompanist.

SWADLINCOTE.—The members of the Harmonic Society gave their first concert on Wednesday evening, the 2nd ult., in the National School Room, when a numerous and respectable audience attended, and the applause throughout was most encouraging. Principal vocalists, Misses Belfield, and Messrs. Bryan, Bowes and Draper, assisted by a number of local vocalists and instrumentalists. Mr. Bedsmore (of Lichfield Cathedral) presided. The music comprised selections from the *Messiah* and *Judas Maccabæus*.

THORNBURY.—The Thornbury Amateur Madrigal Society gave their first public concert on Wednesday evening, the 2nd of January, at the Swan Hotel Assembly Rooms, which were crowded by a fashionable audience. The programme comprised a choice selection of glees and madrigals, with a few songs and duets, which were ably executed, and elicited several well-deserved encores. On the following Friday evening the Society repeated the concert, with some slight alteration of the programme, in the School Room at Tortworth. The room was filled to overflowing, and great applause was elicited during the performance. A sumptuous entertainment was afterwards provided at Tortworth Court, the residence of the Earl of Ducie, under whose patronage the concert took place.

TROWBRIDGE (Wilts).—Mr. W. Hallett gave a concert of sacred music on the last night of the old year. Miss Clara Macfarlane, Miss Mullins, Mr. Cockram, and Mr. Gould were the principal vocalists. Mr. Millington accompanied on the organ, and Mr. J. H. Macfarlane conducted.

WARDOUR-STREET (Soho).—A social meeting of the members and friends of the Wardour-street Congregational Church Choir took place on the 14th ult., when a selection of music was performed, both sacred and secular; conducted by Mr. Davis.

WELLESBOURNE.—On the 16th of January, the members of the choir, assisted by Messrs. F. and G. Maries, performed a selection of sacred and secular music in the school-room, which was filled to overflowing, in aid of the Lending Library. Mr. E. Moody conducted; and Mr. H. Maries presided at the harmonium and pianoforte.

WEST AUCKLAND.—The Members of the West Auckland and St. Helen's Philharmonic Society, gave their first concert on the 27th of December. The first part was a selection from Handel's Oratorio *Judas Maccabæus*, the second part consisted of glees, choruses, &c. The music, with some slight exceptions, was well performed, considering the short time the Society has been in existence. Great praise is due to Mr. H. Priest, of Bishop Auckland, for the manner he has conducted the society since its commencement in June last.

WEYMOUTH.—A popular concert, at popular prices, was given in this town on the 28th of December, by Mr. Ricardo Linter, when the programme consisted of a selection of classical music from the works of Handel, Mozart, Beethoven, Mendelssohn, and Weber. The only vocalist was Mrs. Ricardo Linter. A new feature was introduced, consisting of a short description of the origin, and other interesting facts relating to the compositions, read by Mr. Rowland Brown. A repetition of the performance took place the following week.

WINDSOR.—Mr. Dyson's Third Concert for the People (second series) took place in the Town Hall, January 3rd, under the patronage of the Mayor. The concert consisted of classical and popular songs, duets, trios, &c.